11/4/95

Dear Norman,

Among the reasons you gave for not keeping your word to address last month's convention of the Coalition on Political Assassinations, I've been told, is that you believed I would be there to pick up the award it gave me.

That could not have been because you feared I might be violent.

If you had asked you'd have known that I had not accepted the invitation to be there as their guest.

I've also been told that you said you wrote your pathetic tales that are not Oswald's to make money.

If you did not get it in an advance you did not get it from that book.

You used Posner's book as a source. From it you knew, if you did not recall my offer to you back in 1973, that I give access to all I have to anyone writing in the field, unrestricted and unsupervised access that grew to about a third of a million pages of once-withheld government assassination records.

If you read my Case Open, which was out long before you began your writing on this book, you knew what it says about Posner and his book, what he could not and did not even try to refute in his paperback. In it, in fact, he confirmed what I wrote about him, that he has trouble telling the truth even by accident.

After Case Open appeared, I learned from inside Random House, that Bob Loomis was seen walking a round with a copy of in his fist muttering we've gotta find some way to sue this old son-of-a-bitch.

Not only did they not, when they were faced with a lengthy affidavit based on it in a lawsuit they could not and did not even try to refute a single word in it.

In this I am telling you, if you did not know, that Random House knew before you submitted your manuscript what it inevitably would have to be. Between that and the disappointing sales of Case Closed I can only wonder why they published your book. They had every reason to know that what did happen to it would happen to it.

For their own reasons, whatever they were, they helped you do to yourself what you have done to yourself. If its bombing does not tell you what you have done to yourself, read my current NEVER AGAIN!

You have a great talent and a greater ego.

You have also played Faust to Schiller's Mephisto.

As long as that ego controls you your talent is wasted.

History and novels are not alike, as you have said, and history does not lie, as you also have said. It is those who write lies who do the lying, not history.

There is nothing wrong with making money but there is everything wrong in serious writing to do that writing for money. The money should be earned by the writing.

Pretended mind-reading and ESP, both from the grave, is not serious writing and as you have seen, it does not make money.

Nor does defaming people, as you did to Marina.

It is awkward seeming to be avuncular to a man of seventy but I do suggest to you that in what writing you now do you remember, as I once told you, that we are both here and free by the accident of birth and that, as Frost wrote, we were born with promises to keep in the miles we go before we sleep.

Having tried to do this and looking back on about ten more years than you can I assure that it makes for a good feeling, particularly for a writer.

I hope that in your future writing you will control that ego and go back to your earlier writing and start trying to keep those promises again.

Sincerely,

Harold

Harold Weisberg